

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 2nd August 1902.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—	
Nil.			
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.			
(a)—Police—			
The Police Commission ...	309	The Bengal-Nagpur Railway ...	312
The Mounted Police Corps in Calcutta...	ib.	Railway grievance ...	313
		A grievance ...	ib.
		Inconvenience to railway passengers at Seoraphuli, East Indian Railway ...	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		(h)—General—	
Mr. Justice Fox of the Rangoon High Court	309	Dharma Golas ...	313
The Joint-Magistrate of Arrah ...	ib.	The want of more dispensaries in Bengal ...	314
		The Government and the disposal of the revenues...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		III.—LEGISLATION.	
Nil.		Nil.	
(d)—Education—		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The Universities' Commission ...	310		
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	A Maharani's grievances ...	314
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	The Tippera Succession ...	ib.
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	Nil.	
Ditto ditto ...	311		
Ditto ditto ...	ib.	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Ditto ditto ...	ib.		
Primary education ...	312	The arrest of the Raja of Puri ...	314
Ditto ...	ib.	Ditto ditto ...	315
		Ditto ditto ...	ib.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Ditto ditto ...	ib.
		Ditto ditto ...	ib.
The Calcutta Municipality ...	312	Ditto ditto ...	ib.
The District Board of Nadia and the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway ...	ib.	Ditto ditto ...	ib.
		Ditto ditto ...	ib.
		Ditto ditto ...	ib.
(f)—Questions affecting the Land—		The Vidyasagar celebrations in Bankipore ...	316
Nil.		Eurasians ...	ib.
		Eurasians and Natives ...	ib.
		The Victoria Memorial ...	ib.
		The India Office reception ...	ib.

REPORT (PART II)

NATIONAL GUARD REGIMENT, 17th INFANTRY

Page 10

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1043. The *Moslem Chronicle* regards the absence of a Muhammadan member from the Police Commission as a flaw in the constitution of the Commission. It is deplorable, it says, that this should have happened.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
19th July 1902.

"Somehow or other," it adds, "Lord Curzon seems to think that as Great Britain means the country of the English and the Scots, India means the country of the English and Hindus. The poor Muhammadans are nowhere. His Lordship appears to be somewhat constitutionally afflicted with the failing of making himself unnecessarily and almost wantonly unpopular to the Indian Mussalmans. The Viceroy who thinks there is not one eligible Moslem in the whole of British India, not only pays a very left-handed compliment to the community that once ruled the land for centuries, but to the accumulated wisdom and fruit of British administration of that land since the long period that sovereignty changed hands."

1044. The *Hindoo Patriot* requests the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to impress on the Mounted Police Corps the necessity of being polite to native gentlemen, and also complains of the cart traffic nuisance which the location of a metal warehouse on the Old Post Office Street has recently created. The road is often blocked by long lines of carts, and the approaches to the High Court are thus made to look hideous and disorderly.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
25th July 1902.

(b).—Working of the Courts.

1045. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments as follows on the action of Mr. Justice Fox, of the Rangoon Criminal Sessions, who animadverted upon the perverse verdict of a jury empanelled in another case on the preceding day:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st July 1902.

"Mr. Justice Fox has deservedly the reputation of being a first class Judge, but the action that he took in this case was extraordinary. It requires no ordinary assurance on the part of a British Judge to make a row when he thinks that an Indian Jury has failed to return a correct verdict. For, the failure of an Indian Jury is as much an exception as is the correct verdict of a European Jury when trying a countryman of theirs. Has Mr. Justice Fox forgotten that a Judge of the Allahabad High Court was once pleased to declare from the Bench that it had become impossible to make a European Jury convict a European? This was official opinion, and when the *Pioneer* said the same thing, it showed that non-official European opinion also agreed with the official. By-the-by, we have no information as to how the prisoner on the next day was dealt with by the jurors whom the Judge addressed. We can take it for granted that the Jury convicted the man. Anyhow, this row of the Judge over the alleged failure of an Indian Jury is a piece of impudent work, which beats hollow many things of the same nature that we have come across."

1046. Reverting to the case of the pleaders of Arrah who were convicted by the Joint-Magistrate of rioting, notwithstanding the evidence of respectable gentlemen that they were not present at the occurrence, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Aug. 1902.

"Now see how the same Joint-Magistrate sang a different tune when he had to dispose of a point raised in favour of the defendants. It was urged on their behalf that certain prosecution witnesses ought not to be trusted because they were partizan witnesses. And what does the Magistrate say in reply to this objection? He mournfully exclaims that if evidence were to be discredited on this ground, there could be no conviction!"

"So, the matter stands thus. The conviction of the accused, according to the Joint-Magistrate, must be secured at any cost, and all evidence must be weighed and considered from that standpoint. The evidence of a number of respectable witnesses is to be rejected because the accused are respectable men, but that of interested parties is to be accepted because otherwise the accused cannot be convicted!"

(d)—Education.

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th July 1902.

1047. The *Indian Mirror* is inclined to the belief that the statements of the *Bengalee* regarding some of the recommendations of the Universities Commission are true, otherwise some contradiction would have appeared demi-officially, or in an official press *communiqué*, or they would have been denied in the officially inspired press. It calls for the publication of the report of the Commission; condemns the futility of such Commissions, and expresses the opinion that a strong Government like Lord Curzon's should steer clear of "hole and corner" behaviour.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
27th July 1902.

1048. The following comments are offered by *Power and Guardian* on the alleged recommendations of the Universities Commission:—

Ibid.

"The less said about the recommendations the better for all parties concerned at the present moment. The changes suggested are some of them sweeping in their character, and nothing more repulsive or revolutionary it is possible for us to conceive. There can surely be no question about the fact that the standards of examination in India are in certain respects defective, and none would question the advisability of raising them to those of the English Universities. It is, however, clear from the character of the recommendations made that a hard and fatal blow has been aimed at the colleges held by private enterprise, or, in other words, at cheap education. There can be no question about the fact that when the recommendations will be enforced several of the colleges now in the hands of private men will be extinct in no time. Cheap education will then be a thing of the past and higher education will then be confined to only those who have enough and to spare. This is undoubtedly an undesirable state of things, and should the authorities harbour the idea of placing a bar to higher education by making it costly, surely they would cut a rather sorry figure before the world. The Government have all along prided on the quick spread of education throughout the length and breadth of the empire to its farthest corners. The policy suggested by the enforcement of the recommendations by the Commission is retrograde of the worst type. We are not inclined to attach any political significance to the policy, but the suggestion is not by any means inappropriate. But as already said, in the absence of an authoritative publication before us, it would hardly be justifiable to make strong comments on the report or to suggest any motive to the Government."

BENGALÉE,
27th July 1902.

1049. The *Bengalee* characterizes as a political blunder the restriction of the area of higher education. While it has not the smallest desire to lower the standard of education, but is in fact in favour of a slow, gradual raising of it, the journal protests with all the emphasis that it can command against the raising of the standard which will have the effect in question. It adds:—

Ibid.

"We most earnestly desire to warn our rulers against the step. What is it that creates in our minds the genuine respect that we feel for the English name? It is not the martial exploits of Englishmen which excite the admiration of our people. Shakespeare and Milton and Tennyson, Herbert Spencer and John Stuart Mill are the true bulwarks of British rule in India. To make them inaccessible to the many by confining high education to the few, on the plea of adding to the efficiency of high education in India, is a political blunder, the magnitude of which it would be difficult to exaggerate."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
28th July 1902.

1050. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* avers that not long ago it was the policy of the Government to encourage private educational institutions, and this was done at the expense of its own college, the Presidency. Now, it says, Lord Curzon is seeking by an education commission to effect complete reformation.

Ibid.

BENGALÉE,
28th July 1902.

1051. Referring to the agitation caused by the *Bengalee's* articles on the Universities Commission's recommendations, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks:—"But the point is, will public criticism have the slightest influence upon the deliberations of the Government?" The result of the agitation against the attitude of the Gov-

Ibid.

ernment towards Local Self-Government in Calcutta was, it says, worse than what was ever anticipated. Similarly,

"The Government is fully aware of the great alarm that the report of the Education Commission has created in the minds of the Indian public, but this will not, in the slightest degree, make it abandon the course of action it has decided to adopt. We have no faith in the public discussion of a Government measure; yet that is the only weapon in our hands to protect our interests. As master of the situation, the Government can very well allow the public to see the report and say their say upon it. The very existence of the Indian nation depends upon the right solution of the education question, and the Government, for the sake of its own reputation, should not take any final step in this matter without consulting the people."

1052. In connection with the recommendations of the Universities Commission, the *Indian Nation* calls attention to the practice of the Government never to lay before the public, for criticism, any new scheme or measure till it has received the sanction of the Secretary of State and has been embodied in a Bill. No practice, it maintains, could be more unreasonable or unfair. "In a country where there is no representative Government, have not the public a moral right to know of the existence of a proposed measure and to criticise it if need be, before its principle has been finally adopted and the prestige of the Government bound up with it? After a measure has received the sanction of the Secretary of State and has been reduced to the form of a Bill, what criticism is likely to be listened to except one in regard to the merest details. The publication of a measure at that stage may appear to official eyes as a very generous step—an invitation to criticism. To the public themselves who may have objections to questions of principle, it can only appear as an insulting sham. What imaginable objection could there have been from the point of view of reason and justice to publish the Report of the Universities Commission in India before it was forwarded to the Secretary of State?"

INDIAN NATION,
28th July 1902.

1053. In the absence of an official pronouncement, the *Indian Mirror* says it is constrained to believe that what the *Bengalee* has of late written with regard to the recommendations of the Universities Commission is well founded. It comments as follows on Lord Curzon's mission in India:—

INDIAN MIRROR,
29th July 1902.

"It is absurd now to affect to disbelieve that it is not Lord Curzon's mission to undo all that is popular and progressive in the land. It was he who mainly undid Local Self-Government in Calcutta. It is he who is going to undo higher education in India. We should be glad of an authentic denial of the statement that the Universities Commission's Report has been forwarded to the Secretary of State in Council for sanction of its recommendations, and that as soon as such sanction has been received—which is a *sine qua non*—a Bill will be introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council to be immediately passed into law. If this surmise be true, then Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty will be regarded by the present generation, and by posterity, as the worst, because the most reactionary of all British Viceroyalties. Is Lord Curzon greater than Bentinck or Macaulay that he should deliberately set about to undo all that the highest British craft and statesmanship in the past years had planned for promoting the unity, the loyalty, and the advancement in civilisation of the Indian people? And what does Lord Curzon's own statesmanship amount to? It is little better than professions which scarcely ever square with his acts. His speech at Simla about the educational question and his present attitude are certainly not in agreement. We are compelled to adopt this attitude and to use this language, because we have no other choice left to us."

1054. In the course of its criticism of the article by the *Times of India* on the Universities Commission's recommendations, the *Bengalee* reverts again to the intentions of the Government with regard to education, saying:—

BENGALIAN,
31st July 1902.

"It is now proposed to undo it, to revolutionize our educational system and to plunge the country once again into the vortex of ignorance and darkness and all that ignorance implies. We desire to warn the Government most earnestly, as much in their own interest as in ours, against the revolutionizing of our educational system upon the lines proposed by the Commission."

BEHAR HERALD,
30th July 1902.

1055. As accounting for the decadence of primary education in Bengal, the *Behar Herald* says that, instead of desultory lessons, having little or no bearing on conduct,

Primary education. what is needed is the skilful adaptation of lessons which would promote the material, social and moral elevation of the masses. A knowledge of natural phenomena should be imparted in rural schools, such, for instance, as of wind, rain, lightning, the formation of soil, the growth and structure of plants, &c.

It next points out that the status of primary teachers is scandalously low, and that it is time that a higher standard of general attainments should be demanded, even if the cost should correspondingly increase.

BENGALÉE,
31st July 1902.

1056. The following paragraph appears in the *Bengalée* :—

Ibid.

“According to an Anglo-Indian contemporary, primary education in Bengal threatens to prove a huge failure. Perhaps it is the wish that is father to the thought. Our contemporary's conclusion is based upon the fact that, during the past year, the number of primary schools declined by 2,000 and there was a corresponding decrease of 40,000 in the number of pupils. According to the Director of Public Instruction, this decline is due to agricultural depression, famine and plague. This explanation can hardly be considered entirely satisfactory, and the Director might have taken some trouble in discovering the exact cause or causes instead of shirking the inquiry, and indulging in vague generalisations, however much they may be complimentary to the fertility of his imagination. Our own impression is that the decrease has been due to purely local causes of various characters, which may disappear under more favourable conditions.”

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BENGALÉE,
26th July 1902.

1057. Adverting to the *Englishman's* complaint of the imperfect sanitary arrangements in Calcutta, the *Bengalée* remarks :—

The Calcutta Municipality.

“But we thought that all this neglect would be a thing of the past, when the constitution had been more properly defined and rendered less fluid, and when the executive authority had been armed with vast and uncontrolled powers. But that was not to be. The weakness of the present system lies in the utter absence of popular sympathy and in the firm determination of the people to have no part or share in the municipal administration of the town. Their leaders have been humiliated. They were told that their predominance was not desired and their influence was a stumbling-block in the way of efficient municipal administration. They took the hint and they resigned. They have washed their hands of all municipal work; and the people do not feel the smallest interest in it. It is an elementary principle that no municipal administration can be successful without the sympathy and co-operation of the people concerned. This indispensable condition of success is wanting; and so will it be as long as the present constitution is permitted to last. The remedy lies in the restitution of Local Self-Government.”

INDIAN MIRROR,
30th July 1902.

1058. The *Indian Mirror* says that the allotment for the repair of the Santipore, Krishnagar and the Santipore-Ranaghat roads, over 20 miles in length, is so ridiculously small, that it is apprehended that in the near future there will be no trace of metal on either of them, which will cause infinite inconvenience to the public. The cess-payers had hitherto been deriving substantial benefit from these roads, and it would be the height of injustice to neglect them because the Board has undertaken to meet the deficit of the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway to the extent of Rs. 28,000 a year, even though the line is admittedly of little use to the majority of the poor cess-payers owing to the absence of satisfactory arrangements for conveying goods and passenger traffic.

The District Board, Nadia, and the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

BENGALÉE,
26th July 1902.

1059. The *Bengalée* complains that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway seems slow in enforcing the orders of the Government of India in respect of insisting upon the courteous

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

treatment of Indian passengers by their subordinates, and cites the case of a retired Sub-Judge of Nadia who writes complaining of having been rudely treated by the Station-master of Kharagpur.

1060. The *Bengalee* publishes the reports of the agent appointed by the Indian Association to see what steps railway

Railway grievances.

administrations had taken to carry out the orders of the Government of India for the removal of the grievances of railway passengers. The reports bring to notice that the passage for females at the Howrah station is much too narrow; that the accommodation for intermediate class passengers should be more ample, and that latrine accommodation for males and females was not supplied in the intermediate and 3rd class carriages in the Kalka passenger train of the 17th and 18th.

1061. The *Hindoo Patriot* ventilates the grievances of the inhabitants of the villages of Radhanagar, Kotra, Sonpur, Sonakati, &c., on the left bank of the river Darkessar

A grievance

(a branch of the Damodar), who have hitherto freely plied their *dongas* to the opposite ghat known as Chamandar ghat for agricultural and other purposes. Lately, however, the zemindar's men have levied a tax for the use of the ghat, and if boat-owners cannot pay Rs. 30 as *salami* and Rs. 10 as rent, their boats are not allowed to be moored at the ghat, and they are prohibited from using it for ferry purposes.

1062. Reverting to the closing of the pathway leading to the Seoraphuli platform which has been in use hitherto, the *Bengalee* hopes Mr. Dring, to whom an appeal has been made by the daily passengers of Seoraphuli, will kindly restore to them the use of the pathway.

Inconvenience to railway passengers at Seoraphuli, East Indian Railway.

If, however, it is necessary to close it, it is suggested that an overbridge may be constructed at gate No. 7, which will not only benefit the railway passengers but also the general public, who, at all hours of the day and night, have to cross the railway line at gate No. 7.

BENGALUR,
26th July 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st July 1902.

BENGALUR,
2nd Aug. 1902.

(h)—General.

1063. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes appreciatively of the scheme started by Rai Parbati Sankar Chaudhuri, of Teota, for establishing co-operative corn banks, which he has worked with success.

Dharma Golas.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
26th July 1902.

It summarises the following special advantages offered by these banks:—

1. A *Dharma Gola* can be established in each village from its own resources.
2. The contribution of each individual being only a small portion of the annual yield of paddy, is not likely to cause any hardship.
3. The cost of its up-keep will not be heavy, as the posts of the panchayets, other than the Golodar, will be honorary. Fit men for the management of the banks will be always available in the village.
4. There will be no scope for excessive borrowing from such banks, as there is in the case of money banks.
5. On the acceleration of a large stock of paddy in the *Dharma Gola*, old paddy will be exchanged for new paddy, thus securing a profit, and preventing sickness that is caused from the consumption of new rice.
6. The *Dharma Gola* being the public property of the village, and no one having any right to sell the stock, a reserve stock of grain will ever remain in the country.
7. The *Dharma Golas*, if established all over the country, will not only benefit the agricultural classes, but also the zamindars and the Government, as it will relieve them of the necessity of making contributions for assisting the people during famine and scarcity.
8. The initiative being taken by the villagers and the panchayets being appointed by them, they will take a special interest in these *Dharma Golas*, and will try by all means to maintain them on an efficient basis.
9. During scarcities of food a formidable difficulty presents itself in the transport of grain to villages which are without railway or steamer communication. The establishment of these banks will solve the difficulty.

In conclusion it commends Rai Parbati Sankar's example for the imitation of others and of the Government.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th July 1902.

1064. Referring to the rejection of the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for more dispensaries in Bengal, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes as follows:—

The want of more dispensaries in Bengal.

We very much wish that the Government of Bengal had shown the same sympathy for the suffering millions in the Bengal villages as it did in the case of Europeans, when voting 20 lakhs of rupees or more for the European General Hospital in Calcutta. The Europeans can afford to start a hospital of their own without Government aid, but the raiyats are too poor to do that. Then, again, it is they and not the Europeans who contribute to the public exchequer. Their claims are thus far superior to those of the Europeans. Will His Honour reconsider the suggestion of the Inspector-General, and leave a lasting monument for himself in the hearts of the people he has come to rule by giving effect to it before he leaves this country? The Lady Dufferin Fund may also be utilized for the malaria and cholera-stricken raiyats in Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st July 1902.

1065. Examining the policy of the Finance Minister, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds it to consist, first, in the duty of the

The Government and the disposal of the revenues.

Central Government to guard India against external and internal foes, meet the Public Debt, the Army Expenditure, the Marine Charges, the Home Charges, etc., etc. The cost of the domestic administration of India is, however, altogether a secondary affair in the presence of the above. Indeed, it says, people may perish for want of good drinking water, medical help and food; the industrial and agricultural manufactures of the country may languish or die; or the civil and criminal administration may be converted into a mere farce for want of funds and the country reduced to a state of anarchy; but these circumstances sink into utter insignificance before, say, the needs of the India Office. How ruinous must be this policy to the welfare of India may better be imagined than described.

The principles laid down by Indian Finance Ministers lead to the inevitable conclusion, continues the journal, that the revenues of India belong to a few Englishmen who spend eight months of the year on the hills; that the Government of India have no obligation to promote the welfare of the people; and that they exist only to pay the pensions and compensation allowances of the officials—to fortify the frontier and look to the comfort of Tommy Atkins. Fortunately for the poor and helpless people of India, the Government itself is better than the declarations of its officials.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th July 1902.

1066. Without disclosing names, the *Hindoo Patriot* writes that a Dowager

A Maharani's grievances.

Maharani of one of the foremost Hindu States has addressed the Press, as also the Political Agent and the Viceroy, a petition setting forth the grievances she has against the reigning Maharaja. The paper is fully persuaded that His Excellency the Viceroy will do justice to the lady's case.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th July 1902.

1067. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* advocates the appointment of an

The Tippera Succession.

experienced officer to try the dispute which is going on between the Raja of Tippera and his brother. This officer should call upon the parties to appear before him in person with their representations. Such a course would give the journal greater satisfaction than that the settlement of the dispute should be decided upon the report of the junior officer appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor to enquire into it.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th July 1902.

1068. The following is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot*:—

The arrest of the Raja of Puri.

"We are glad to hear that the attention of the Local Government has been called to the Magisterial doings at Puri and the Magistrate has been called upon to submit an explanation. Tremendous sensation has been caused all over the country

by the arrest of the sacred person of the Raja, and the papers ought to be made public without delay, together with the views and orders of the Government. We understand the Magistrate's explanation has been already submitted."

1069. The following appears in the *Indian Mirror* :—

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th July 1902.

The arrest of the Raja of Puri. "Because, beyond publishing a telegram from Puri about the alleged dishonourment of the Raja of Puri, we have preserved silence on the subject, it must not be supposed that we are less alive than any of our contemporaries to the gravity of the subject. The matter is still, in a manner, *sub judice*. We shall certainly speak out fearlessly when the time is ripe for doing so.

1070. The *Bengalee* publishes the details of the incident which led to the arrest of the Raja of Puri, and expatiates on the danger of vesting young magistrates such as Mr.

BENGALIAN,
26th July 1902.

Garrett with such power.

"We are tired," it adds, "of reporting such cases, yet we do not know how we can ignore them. The impression in the country is that it is lawlessness which prevails almost everywhere. The Government is wiser than we are, and therefore knows best what to do. But to us it seems that there is some danger, not to the Government, but, to society, if this sort of anarchy is allowed to prevail in the country much longer."

1071. With reference to this incident, *Power and Guardian* remarks that the Government cannot afford to close its eyes in view of the circumstances of the case. A sifting

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
27th July 1902.

and impartial enquiry is what the Hindu community expects.

1072. Under the heading "The reign of lawlessness," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* devotes a leader to the subject of the arrest of the Raja of Puri, which it characterizes as

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th July 1902.

wholly illegal, and as the outcome of the recklessness to which executive officers have drifted by the exercise of irresponsible powers with impunity.

It learns that the Raja is taking legal steps against those concerned, and is confident that Lord Curzon and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, both of whom the Raja has had the honour of meeting, will see that justice is not denied him.

1073. The following comments are made by the *Indian Empire* on the arrest of the Raja of Puri under the orders of the Magistrate :—

INDIAN EMPIRE,
29th July 1902.

Mr. Garrett, we find, is a junior officer having come out to this country only a little over six years ago. It is a wonder how could he have been entrusted with the charge of a district. Is there so much dearth of officers in Bengal that young and inexperienced men like Mr. Garrett should be let loose among the people, being invested with almost absolute powers? Much of the mischief done in India is done by young and inexperienced Magistrates, and still, we wonder, Government places them in charge of districts.

1074. With reference to the complaint made by the Raja of Puri before the Deputy Magistrate of Puri, the *Hindoo Patriot* writes :—

HINDOO PATRIOT,
30th July 1902.

Hindu India will await with anxiety the decision of the Government and the Court in the matter. We are not sure that it would not on the whole have been better to hold the criminal court complaint in abeyance, pending the decision of Sir John Woodburn's Government. The papers ought to be published without any delay, for public feeling is extremely strained. We understand on the occasion of the *Snanjatra* ceremony the Raja's bathing and going out in state had also been prevented, but the Raja did not complain.

1075. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that the situation in Puri has been brought about by reason of that important district being left

HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st July 1902.

to the charge of a boy Magistrate of no more than half-a-dozen years' standing. It expresses surprise that such a thing could have happened within easy reach by wire of the Commissioner, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Viceroy, and at the height of a festival to which millions of devotees were drawn, and to whom the affronted Raja was held as the most sacred of objects next to Jagganath himself. The *Patriot* leaves Mr. Garrett to be

dealt with by the Local Government and public opinion, and is grateful that a serious riot and public disturbance were averted on the occasion.

BEHAR HERALD,
26th July 1902.

1076. The *Behar Herald* writes that it is proposed on the 29th instant to celebrate in Bankipore the anniversary of the Bengali philanthropist, Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar. This step, says the *Herald*, is a happy sign of the times, following as it does in the wake of the Sivaji celebrations in Calcutta. It shows that Bengalis have at last commenced to appreciate the value of worshipping their heroes.

The Vidyasagar celebrations in Bankipore.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th July 1902.

1077. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finding, as it alleges, that the Eurasian stands in the way of the Indian, recommends the deportation of the community to Australia and South Africa, for the purpose of forming self-governing colonies in those parts.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th July 1902.

1078. The *Hindoo Patriot* characterizes as absurd the alleged grievance of the Eurasian community which led it to consider the desirability of invoking legislation and executive interference in the matter of preventing natives changing their clothes and patronymics and being called Eurasians.

Eurasians.

Eurasians and Natives.

BENGALKE,
28th July 1902.

1079. The *Bengalee* refers to the letter alleged to have been addressed by the Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj to the residents of that subdivision, asking for subscriptions towards the Victoria Memorial Fund, and says that it may not betray good taste or grammar, but it is certainly a shrewd business letter, which is sure to accomplish its purpose. This would be the case even if the Magistrate were to recall the letter, for the people would know that in spite of the Magistrate's protestations, he would in his heart of hearts be pleased were he to get contributions.

The Victoria Memorial.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th July 1902.

1080. In an article headed "With the kind permission of His Excellency the Viceroy, who is opposed to sarcastic writing," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes thus of the thoughts of the Indian peasants on the subject of the India Office reception:—

Said Kanye Mandal: "What is food when compared to fireworks, especially when displayed out of one's sight? To eat is to be an animal; sights are for divinities. And, then, to see sights directly is to see their defect, along with their beauties. But to see sights in England from here is to see the beauties only."

Badal was exceedingly sorry that the British people did not spend the revenues of India on fireworks in England. And they all agreed in this philosophic view.

"What a great honor to us Indians," said Fagu Sheikh.

There was Gopal, who did not know what champagne was like, which flowed like the Ganges.

Some wise man defined it as milk, milk of human kindness. "It is all figurative; don't you see that, you stupid?"

"And how many animals were slaughtered?" asked another.

The reply was that they must have killed thousands of pigs and cows. This delighted the Hindus and Mussalmans very much. For nothing pleases the Hindus so much as to hear of the slaughter of kine and the Mussalmans of pigs, specially when it is done at their cost.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 2nd August 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.